

**NITC Meeting**  
**Tuesday March 9, 2004**  
**Statewide Technology Plan**  
**Topics**

## **Proposed Changes to Policies and Practices for Guiding Investments**

In creating the NITC, the Legislature recognized the need for “developing a statewide vision and strategic plan to guide investments in information technology”. The NITC also has a specific duty to review and prioritize major information technology projects as part of the biennial budget process. In particular, Section 86-516 (8) directs the NITC to:

“By November 15 of each even-numbered year, make recommendations on technology investments to the Governor and the Legislature, including a prioritized list of projects, reviewed by the technical panel, for which new or additional funding is requested;”

Several changes are being proposed in order to create a more proactive role for the NITC in identifying strategic initiatives and communicating those initiatives to the Governor and Legislature as part of the NITC’s recommendations on technology investments. The proposed changes would allow agencies to address their potential role in these strategic initiatives, and the proposed changes would give policy makers more information about how to achieve progress toward attaining statewide information technology goals. These changes include:

1. Statewide Technology Plan. Add a new section to the Statewide Technology Plan that lists a small number of initiatives (6 to 9) that the NITC may actively promote for the ensuing 1 to 3 years. These are projects that would materially advance the vision and statewide goals as identified by the NITC, that are ready to be implemented, or that require an enterprise approach, involvement by the NITC and cooperation of multiple entities for their success.
2. Agency Comprehensive Information Technology Plan. A new section would give agencies the opportunity to describe current and proposed efforts that relate to one or more of the projects on the list of strategic initiatives in the Statewide Technology Plan. During the summer, NITC Councils or NITC staff may organize planning sessions to help identify the best avenues to undertake the strategic initiatives. Information from these sessions would provide the basis for a gap analysis developed and presented to the NITC in November.
3. Project Proposal Forms and Technical Reviews. No changes in the project proposal form or technical reviews are needed. Project proposals pertaining to strategic initiatives would be subject to the same scoring as all other projects. The scoring

from the technical reviews will provide the basis for the initial list of prioritized projects, subject to review by the Councils and NITC.

4. Gap Analysis for Strategic Initiatives. NITC staff would evaluate budget requests and project proposals in terms of their impact on the list of strategic initiatives. A report to the NITC would identify important gaps and offer ways of addressing those deficiencies. Much of the information in the report will stem from planning and organizational sessions conducted during the summer.
5. NITC Recommendations on Technology Investments. The NITC would review and amend the prioritized list of projects submitted by the Councils. The report from the NITC to the Governor and Legislature would include both the list of prioritized projects and the gap analysis regarding strategic initiatives. The NITC would also have the opportunity to develop recommendations regarding those initiatives. Those additional recommendations could be part of the report that is due by November 15, or they could come later.

## **Timeframe**

1. January & February: Develop Council lists;
2. March 9: NITC approval of the list of strategic investments;
3. June 3: NITC approve the Statewide Technology Plan.
4. April, May, June, July, and August: meetings to discuss, plan and coordinate agency budget requests pertaining to the strategic investments;
5. August 16: Submission of Agency Comprehensive Information Technology Plans
6. September 15: Submission of Agency Budget Requests, including Project Proposals
7. September and October: analysis of Agency Comprehensive Information Technology Plans and Budget Requests; review and prioritization of Project Proposals
8. Wednesday November 10, 2004: NITC meeting
9. Monday November 15: Submit report to the Governor and Legislature.

## **Proposed Strategic Initiatives**

### **Community Council**

1. Statewide Telehealth Network
2. Statewide Wireless Public Safety Network
3. Community IT planning and technology-related economic development

### **Education Council**

1. Network Nebraska
2. Statewide Synchronous Video Network
3. E-Learning

## State Government Council

1. Enterprise Architecture (for state government agencies)
2. E-Government
3. Security and Business Resumption
4. Broadband Communications Network (same as Network Nebraska)

## APPENDIX

### **86-513 Legislative findings and intent.**

(1) The Legislature finds that appropriations for information technology continue to increase. Advances in information technology have the potential to improve government efficiency, broaden educational opportunities, and enhance services to Nebraska communities and citizens. To assure the most cost-effective use of state appropriations:

(a) Responsibility should be assigned for developing a statewide vision and strategic plan to guide investments in information technology;

(b) Organizational and technical support for technology budget decisions should be improved and integrated;

(c) A clearinghouse should be formed for technical support and best practices information; and

(d) Responsibility should be assigned to an office within state government for improving the planning, budgeting, and management of state government's information resources.

(2) It is the intent of the State of Nebraska to support the development of a unified statewide telecommunications infrastructure. The statewide telecommunications infrastructure will be scalable, reliable, and efficient. It is further the intent of the Legislature that the provisions of sections 86-512 to 86-524 serve to coordinate the state's investments in information technology in an efficient and expeditious manner. The provisions are not intended to impede the rapid deployment of appropriate technology or establish cumbersome regulations or bureaucracy.

### **86-516 Commission; duties.** The commission shall:

***(1) Annually by July 1, adopt policies and procedures used to develop, review, and annually update a statewide technology plan;***

(2) Create an information technology clearinghouse to identify and share best practices and new developments, as well as identify existing problems and deficiencies;

(3) Review and adopt policies to provide incentives for investments in information technology infrastructure services;

(4) Determine a broad strategy and objectives for developing and sustaining information technology development in Nebraska, including long-range funding strategies, research and development investment, support and maintenance requirements, and system usage and assessment guidelines;

***(5) Adopt guidelines regarding project planning and management, information sharing, and administrative and technical review procedures involving state-owned or state-supported technology and infrastructure.*** Governmental entities, state agencies, and political subdivisions shall submit projects which directly utilize state-appropriated funds for information technology purposes to the process established by sections 86-512 to 86-524. Governmental entities and political subdivisions may submit other projects involving information technology to the commission for comment, review, and recommendations;

***(6) Adopt minimum technical standards, guidelines, and architectures upon recommendation by the technical panel;***

(7) Establish ad hoc technical advisory groups to study and make recommendations on specific topics, including work groups to establish, coordinate, and prioritize needs for education, local communities, and state agencies;

***(8) By November 15 of each even-numbered year, make recommendations on technology investments to the Governor and the Legislature, including a prioritized list of projects, reviewed by the technical panel, for which new or additional funding is requested;***

(9) Approve grants from the Community Technology Fund and Government Technology Collaboration Fund;

***(10) Adopt schedules and procedures for reporting needs, priorities, and recommended projects;***  
***and***

(11) Provide assistance upon request to the Public Safety Wireless Communication Advisory Board.